



HAMPTON ROADS BASE



≈ *CURRENTS* ≈

Website Address: <https://www.HRB-USSVI.org>

Facebook Address: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/USSVIHRB/>

Jan-Feb-Mar 2024

Issue No: 2024-1st Quarter

The purpose/creed of USSVI is to perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country that their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice may be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments, and to pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, USSVI shall provide a way for all submariners to gather for their mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. The USSVI supports a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today."

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Currents is Now Quarterly Format

This edition of Currents is the first one to be in the quarterly format that voted on and approved by the membership in February 2024

Hampton Roads Base Newsletter

"Currents"

Published Quarterly and distributed on or about the second week of the new quarter

All submissions for publication should be sent to the editor, Tony Ficca, by email: Newsletter.HRB@gmail.com

NLT the last week of the Quarter

Hampton Roads Base meetings are held at 11:15 hours, on the third Saturday of every month (except March) at Club #60 located at 9601 1st View Street, Ocean View, Norfolk, VA





**Statement
from the
Base
Commander**

From the Base Commander,

Our new year is progressing nicely. I would like to thank all those who were sworn in at the January meeting. Our Leadership Board who was sworn in by our visiting District Commander Mike Sears:

- Base Commander---

Gary Galles
- Senior Vice Commander---
-----Adam Kingsley
- Junior Vice Commander---
-----Ron O'Donnell
- Secretary-----

---Lynn Merryman
- Treasurer-----

---John "Sid" Sidlovsky

And the rest of Executive Board were approved by membership:

- Executive Board-----

- Ken Swan
- Executive Board---
-----Bill Heron
- Executive Board---
-----Tony Ficca
- Immediate Past Commander---
Brian Daugherty

Our newly elected Hall of Fame boat, USS L. Mendel Rivers (SSN-686) will take its place in the halls of the Submarine Learning Facility in May. Our budget was approved.

Our February meeting had a program about the Navy League by Rike Severinghaus.

The Norfolk Sail is having discussions having a change for its new home. Please see Gary Merryman if you have any ideas. He is looking to see if the Norfolk Naval Station, Submarine Learning Facility might be another option.

The induction of the Holland Club is going to happen at our April meeting.

The St. Patty's Day Parade was GREAT!!! If you missed it this year—plan accordingly for next year. A great time was held by all.

The Submarine Birthday Ball will be held at the Virginia Beach Convention Center on the 26th of April. My contact at SUBLANT has ensured me, we will not run out of room this year. We are

nearing 40 attendees and Bud Warren will lead us on the podium by cutting the cake.

The Scorpion Memorial will be held on the 26th of May.

Please start to spark interest in the scholarship program for this year. This is the scholarship program for our base to a deserving student from the Hampton Roads Base.

We will be selling the tickets for the picnic at the May meeting.

MMCS(SS/DV) Gary Galles, U.S.N. (Ret.)

BaseCommander.HRB@gmail.com



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**From the Base Senior Vice
Commander**



ETC(SS) Adam Kingsley, U.S.N. (Ret.)
Senior.Vice.HRB@gMail.com

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From the Base Junior Vice Commander

Greetings and salutations from your newly elected Jr Vice Commander. Looking forward to serving you all in my new position. Thanks to Adam for his years serving as your Jr Vice Commander. I hope i can uphold the standards he set. Got great things happening this year with programs, parades, and events. Subvets is the co sponsor of the veterans day parade this year so ill be asking for help later on this year. St Patty parade around the corner. That was a good time last year Thanks to all of you who participated the the Hall of Fame boat selection this year. Great competition. See ya next meeting.



RMCM(SS) Ron ODonnell, U.S.N. (Ret.)
Junior.Vice.HRB@gMail.com

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From the Base Secretary



Lynn Merryman
Secretary.HRBBase@gMail.com

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From the Base Treasurer

As I stated last few months, Annual Dues are coming due again and you need to have your dues paid by 12/31/23 for the 2024 membership year. Annual dues for National & HRB are as follows: 1 Yr - \$45.00, 3 Yrs - \$127.50, 5-Yrs - \$210.00. I will start

sending out dues notices so I can help you get renewed on time.

If you prefer to pay dues by Credit Card just send me an email to treasurer.ussvi.hrb@gmail.com and I can send you an invoice for the Sponsorship using our Clover credit card pay app or just see me at the next Base Meeting. Also you can mail dues to: USSVI - Hampton Roads Base, c/o The UPS Store, 1215 N. Military Hwy., Box #813, Norfolk, VA 23502

Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).

ET1(SS) John (Sid) Sidlovsky
Treasurer.USSVI.HRB@gMail.com
or **SidofVA@gMail.com**

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From the Base Chaplain



Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).

IC1(SS) Art Nelson
Chaplain.HRBBase@gMail.com

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From the Base Storekeeper

Thank you to new base member Will Layne for stepping up and assuming the the duties of Base Storekeeper.



USSVI.HRB.Storekeeper@gMail.com

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The CoB's Corner

The Norfolk Sail project is still chugging along. Still working with getting approvals from various committees within the city. But you can help we have coins for \$20.00 and a go find me page to donate. All proceeds go to setting up projects within the project. If you would like more information please contact me at



gary@norfolksubmemorial.com. Remember we are a 501c group and will provide receipts for any donation.

There is a special donor gift for those who donate a gift of 2500.00 or higher to the Sail Project



Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).

MM1(SS) Gary Merryman U.S.N. (Ret.)
Gary2361@Yahoo.com

From the Editor



Greetings All ! I am working on clearing up the format and will get better with the upcoming editions as we change to a quarterly format rather than monthly. This had been voted on by membership and I am looking at best ways to meet this new publication schedule. This issue is covering Feb and Mar since January had its own publication.

MS2(SS) Tony Ficca U.S.N.

Any questions or contribution to the newsletter should be sent to the following email address

Newsletter.hrb@gmail.com



Membership

Membership drive is a 365-day job. Please review the current roster and send any changes to our secretary, secretary.hrbase@gmail.com.

Membership dues are coming upon us. Dues are due by the end of December. Please do not wait to the last minute. We currently have 282 members.

War Veterans: 249

Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).

ETC(SS) Adam Kingsley, U.S.N. (Ret.)

Senior.Vice.HRB@gmail.com or


Ways & Means

As always, we're on the lookout for ideas for Base fundraising opportunities. You can present them to the Base leadership or contact me directly at any time.

Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).

RMCM(SS) Ron ODonnell, U.S.N. (Ret.)

Junior.Vice.HRB@gmail.com




Hampton Roads Base
United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.
"To Perpetuate the Memory of our Shipmates, who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country."

We are a fraternal organization of Submarine Veterans. We are open to and welcome any and all who have qualified to wear dolphins. Contact us by email at USSVI.HRB.Secretary@gmail.com with any questions and come visit our website at <https://www.hrb-ussvi.org>

Join us for our monthly meeting at 11:15 hours, the 3rd Saturday of every month (except March). We meet at FRA #60 in Ocean View, 9601 1st View Street, Norfolk, VA 23503-1603 (the corner of 1st View St. & Balview Ave. and across 'A' View Ave. from the Post Office).

We look forward to meeting you at a meeting.



About The Base Website and Social Media

The web address for the Base website is:

<https://www.hrb-ussvi.org/>.

the following are the step by step instructions for updating member profiles

Members seeking to update their Online Member Profile at the HRB-USSVI.org website should review the following procedure – It's a great way to introduce yourself to the other members of the Base.

Or:

From the top menu at <https://www.hrb-ussvi.org/>:

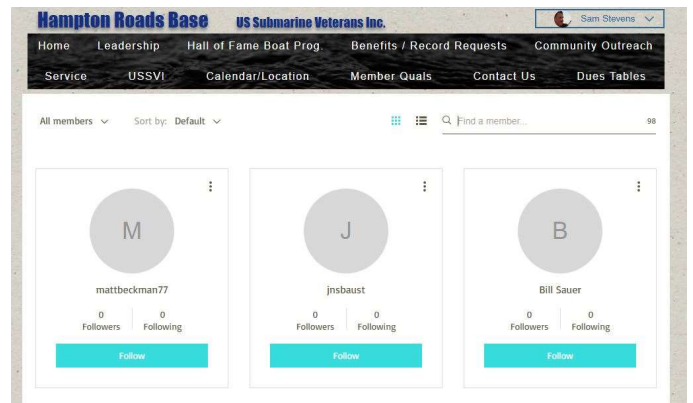


Click: Member Quals

You will jump to the: Member's Page. (find / CLICK the "Members Only" button there.)



-- Jumps to Member Area.



Find the search area (top right) and type your name. (wait for the Member's profile to be displayed)

** You are now in your Profile control dashboard. **

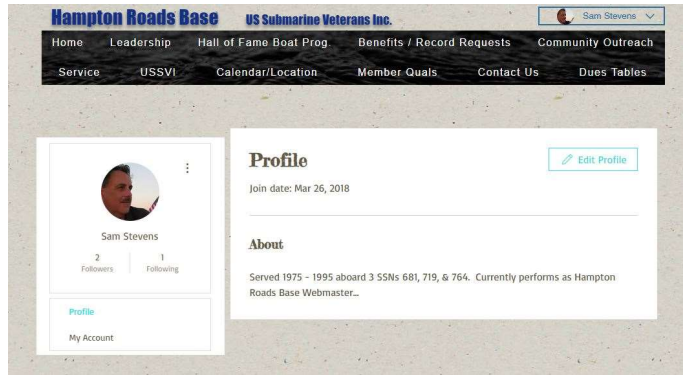
You can add a picture here by clicking on the circle.



4. Click on the My Profile button (below your name)

A New Window opens





5. Introduce yourself with a short bio in the ABOUT area (making any change in this field will offer you the "PUBLISH" button.)

Let me know if you do not see the PUBLISH button

The Website may be found at:

<https://www.ussvi.org/>

Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).

STS1(SS) Sam Stevens, U.S.N. (Ret.)

HRB.USSVI@gmail.com

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[Holland Club News](#)

Our 2024 Holland Club Induction Ceremony is currently scheduled for Saturday, April 20th.

Our shipmates that qualified in 1974 include:

LCDR Kevin Adams who qualified on USS John Marshall (SSBN 611)

ET1 (SS) Raymond Casella who qualified on USS George Marshall (SSBN 654)

Captain Peter Flannery who qualified on USS James Madison (SSBN 627)

ETCS (SS) Thomas Hanlon who qualified on USS Sea Devil (SSN 644)

TMCS (SS) Gary Harris who qualified on USS Theodore Roosevelt (SSBN 600)



If you believe you are qualified for induction in the Holland Club and have not been inducted, please contact me at bill.heron1@verizon.net.

Additionally, if any current Holland Club members would like a replacement Holland Club Membership Card in color please contact me at the above email address.

EMCM(SS) William (Bill) Heron, U.S.N. (Ret.)

Bill.Heron1@Verizon.net

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[Emergency Relief Fund](#)

Submarine Brothers, Submarine Sisters, and other associated members of Submarine Veterans Hampton Roads Base, the Base Emergency Relief Fund was created to help base members in need without having to wait for the next base meeting. This will also, allow the member in need to discreetly reach out to one of the following members: HMCS(SS) Jack Ritz (Cell: 757-647-4669), EM2(SS) Paul Schmidt (Cell: 757-481-1297), or contact our Base Secretary, Lynn Merryman (Cell: 757-354-7259). Then the members can talk about the issue privately and vote to approve or reject and once approved reach out to the Base Treasurer to get the funds released.

There is a designated ERF donation container at each of our meetings. All funds donated are kept separate from other Base Funds.

Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).

HMCS(SS) Jack Ritz (Cell: 757-647-4669),
ERF.HRB@gmail.com or

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The USS SCORPION Memorial



The annual Scorpion Memorial is currently scheduled for Sunday, May 26th.

EMCM(SS) William (Bill) Heron, U.S.N. (Ret.)

Bill.Heron1@Verizon.net

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HRB Members with February and March Birthdays

(If I've gotten your birthday wrong, or missed it, please let me know.)

- Michael S. Chagnon
- Gene E. Destefano
- John F. Elliott
- Roger Gary Gard
- Scott C. Humpert
- Eugene M Johnson
- Frederick John Lowack
- Lawrence J Mason
- Ronan Michael McNamara
- Gary Merryman
- Tommy E. Moore
- Ronald T. O'Donnell
- Bernard L. Pattison
- Lisa Rearick
- Tim Richard
- James Rosson
- John E. Springett, Sr.
- Adof T. Villarial
- Michael Ammann
- Carl Boyd

- David W Bridges
- David Coffield
- Joseph Demnicki
- John L, Donaldson
- Jennifer Dugan
- Christopher Harker
- Brandon Hastey
- Larry Hayes
- Michael A. Kolb
- Michael P. Kurash
- Steven John Mathews
- Jason Melton
- Arthur H, Oman Jr
- Ronald J. Pervere
- Barry A. Porter
- Robert E. Saenz
- Jeffery M.Schmidt
- Charles J. Steenburgh
- James W. Stokes
- Randall E. Strickland
- Howard Patrick Urello
- Roy. M Vess
- Francis L. (Bud) Warren Jr.

We remember....



Boats Lost in February

USS Shark (SS 174): Lost on Feb 11, 1942, with the loss of 59 officers and men on her first war patrol. Shark was the first US Submarine sunk by enemy surface craft in the Pacific. She was most likely sunk by depth charges.

USS Amberjack (SS 219): Lost on Feb 16, 1943, with the loss of 72 officers and men on her third war



patrol. Off Rabaul, she was attacked by a torpedo boat and then depth charged by a subchaser.

USS Grayback (SS 208): Lost on Feb 27, 1944, with the loss of 80 officers and men on her tenth war patrol. She appears to have been caught on the surface in the East China Sea by a Japanese carrier plane whose bombs made a direct hit. During this war patrol, she sank 4 ships totaling 21,594 tons and was tied for 11th in the number of ships sunk.

USS Trout (SS 202): Lost on Feb 29, 1944, with the loss of 79 officers and men on her 11th war patrol.

Boats Lost in March

USS F-4 (Skate) (SS 23): Lost on March 25, 1915 with the loss of 21 men. She foundered 1.5 miles off of Honolulu when acid corrosion of the lead lining of the battery tank let seawater into the battery compartment, causing loss of control. She was raised in August 1915.

USS H-1 (Seawolf) (SS-28): Lost on March 12, 1920, with the loss of 4 men as they tried to swim to shore after grounding on a shoal off Santa Margarita Island, off the coast of Baja California, Mexico. Of the crew of 25, the CO and three other men were lost. Vestal (AR-4) pulled H-1 off the rocks in the morning of 24 March, only to have her sink 45 minutes later in some 50 feet of water. She was originally named the USS Seawolf before becoming H-1.

USS Perch (SS 176): Lost on March 3, 1942 near Java with no immediate loss of life, while on her first war patrol. She survived two severe depth chargings in less than 200 feet of water by 3 Japanese destroyers. The crew abandoned ship and scuttled her. Of the 61 officers and men taken prisoner, 55 survived the war and six died as POWs.
NB: Our brother, Turk Turner, now on eternal patrol, served on USS Perch.

USS Grampus (SS 207): Lost on March 5, 1943 with the loss of 71 officers and men, on her 6th war patrol. She was lost in Vella Gulf, sunk after engaging two Japanese destroyers.

USS Triton (SS 201): Lost on March 15, 1943 with the loss of 74 men. She was sunk north of the

Philippines Basin after sinking a passenger-cargoman and damaging another in a convoy. She carried out several notable special missions, including carrying over two tons of gold bullion out of Corregidor in February 1942.

USS Barbel (SS-316): Lost on Feb 4, 1945, with the loss of 81 officers and men on her 4th war patrol. Based on Japanese records, she was bombed near the southern entrance to the Palawan Passage. The day before, she reported she survived 3 depth charge attacks.

Admiralty Islands during a fight with three Japanese destroyers. Triton was the first boat to engage the enemy in December 1941 off Wake Island, sinking 9 ships, 1 submarine, and a destroyer.

USS Tullibee (SS 284): Lost on March 26, 1944 with the loss of 79 officers and men, on her fourth war patrol. It is believed she was a victim of a circular run by one of her own torpedoes. The lookout was the only survivor and he survived the war as a Japanese prisoner.

USS Kete (SS 369): Lost on March 20, 1945 with the loss of 87 officers and men at the end of her second war patrol. She was probably sunk near Okinawa by a Japanese submarine that itself was subsequently lost.

USS Trigger (SS 237): Lost on March 26, 1945 with the loss of 89 officers and men, on her 12th war patrol. She was lost during a combined attack by Japanese antisubmarine vessels and aircraft. Trigger ranked 7th in total tonnage sunk and tied for 8th in the number of ships sunk.

*They shall not grow old as we who are left behind
grow old.*

*Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn
them.*

*From the rising of the sun in the morning, until
it's rising again the following morning,*

***WE WILL REMEMBER THEM,
FOREVER.***



Hall of Fame Boat

Congratulations to this year's winner of the HOF boat USS L. Mendel Rivers. SSN 686 this was the first time a tie has happened but upon the second ballot the L.Mendel Rivers was victorious in getting elected to the Hall Of Fame.

The induction ceremony will be taking place in May more info to follow.

Ken Swan

413-923-4030

Kenneth.A.Swan@gmail.com

2024 Officers Swearing in Ceremony



Congratulations to the Slate of Officers sworn in at our last meeting for the next 2 years

Welcome New Base Member



David Zacharias 1975 USS Bergall

Base Picnic information

We are looking forward to our annual base picnic on Aug 17th. We will start selling tickets at the May meeting.

Ticket prices are as follows:

Children 5 and under are FREE.

Children 6 - 17 and Base Members are \$7.

Guests are \$10.

We have Christmas Party RAFFLE Tickets for sale at each meeting \$1 per ticket. Please purchase your tickets for 2 chances to win 2 Christmas Party Tickets. We need more participation or we will have to go down to 1 drawing for 2 party tickets.

For any questions or concerns please contact Beverly Galles at 252-562-3534 or bgalles9@yahoo.com



Base Officers & Key Personnel

(Remember: you must dial all 10 digits when contacting by phone)

Base Commander

Gary Galles
757-714-2733

BaseCommander.HRB@gmail.com

Senior Vice Commander Membership Committee Chair & Scholarship Committee Chair:

Adam Kingsley
757-535-4179

Senior.Vice.HRB@gmail.com

Base Junior Vice Commander & Ways and Means Committee Chair & Events Committee Chair:

Ron ODonnell
757-544-0105

Junior.Vice.HRB@gmail.com

Base Secretary & Public Relations and Publicity Committee Chair:

Lynn Merryman
757-354-7259

Secretary.HRBase@gmail.com

Base Treasurer:

John (Sid) Sidlovsky
757-328-9796

Treasurer.USSVI.HRB@gmail.com

or SidofVA@gmail.com

Base CoB:

Gary Merryman U.S.N. (Ret.)
757-968-6708

Gary2361@yahoo.com

Base Chaplain:

Art Nelson
804-920-6820

Chaplain.HRBase@gmail.com

or ArtWorkWood@yahoo.com

Base Storekeeper:

Will Layne

USSVI.HRB.Storekeeper@gmail.com

Social Media Coordinator & Webmaster:

Sam Stevens
757-814-7976

SStvns7@gmail.com or
HRB.USSVI@gmail.com

Holland Club Chairman:

William (Bill) Heron
757-886-0913

Bill.Heron1@Verizon.net

Base Historian:

Paul R. Schmidt
757-572-2711

TheBakerPaul@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Tony Ficca

757-646-1152

Newsletter.hrb@gmail.com

Submarine Memorial &

Hall of Fame Committee Chair

Ken Swan
413-923-4030

Kenneth.A.Swan@gmail.com

Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) Coordinator:

John (Sid) Sidlovsky
757-328-9796

SidofVA@gmail.com

Base Emergency Relief Chair:

HMCS(SS) Jack Ritz (Cell: 757-647-4669),

ERF.HRB@gmail.com

SCORPION Memorial Committee Chair

William (Bill) Heron
757-886-0913

Bill.Heron1@Verizon.net

NORFOLK Sail Committee Chair

Gary Merryman U.S.N. (Ret.)
757-274-9322

Gary2361@yahoo.com

Nominating Committee Chair:

Brian Daugherty (Immediate Past Base Commander)

757-409-8560

BDaugherty7@Verizon.net

Hampton Roads Base Snail Mail Address:

US Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Hampton Roads Base

1215 N Military Hwy, Box 813

Norfolk, VA 23502-2228



Base Sponsorship program

Consider sponsoring for 2024, if you were a 2023 Base Sponsor you will get a 10% discount on and renewal at the same or higher levels. Congratulations to Chuck Steenburgh for being our first 2024 Base Sponsor, as he did (2) 41 for Freedom Sponsorships.

2024 Hampton Roads Base Sponsorships			
Sponsor Level	Benefits	Donation	2024 Sponsors
COLUMBIA Class Sponsor	2 Christmas Party Tickets 4 Summer Picnic Tickets 8 Raffle Tickets at Each Monthly Base Meeting Name on Website Sponsorship Recognition Page Supports HR Base Operations and Scholarship Fund	\$500	Busila, Ron Dudley, Craig Swain, Ken
VIRGINIA Class Sponsor	2 Christmas Party Tickets 2 Summer Picnic Tickets 3 Raffle Tickets at Each Monthly Base Meeting Name on Website Sponsorship Recognition Page Supports HR Base Operations and Scholarship Fund	\$300	Galles, Gary & Beverly Hastey, Brandon (Duke)
SEAWOLF Class Sponsor	1 Christmas Party Ticket 2 Summer Picnic Tickets 3 Raffle Tickets at Each Monthly Base Meeting Name on Website Sponsorship Recognition Page Supports HR Base Operations and Scholarship Fund	\$200	
OHIO Class Sponsor	2 Summer Picnic Tickets 3 Raffle Tickets at Each Monthly Base Meeting Name on Website Sponsorship Recognition Page Supports HR Base Operations and Scholarship Fund	\$150	
LOS ANGELES Class Sponsor	1 Summer Picnic Ticket 3 Raffle Tickets at Each Monthly Base Meeting Name on Website Sponsorship Recognition Page Supports HR Base Operations and Scholarship Fund	\$125	
STURGEON Class Sponsor	3 Raffle Tickets at Each Monthly Base Meeting Name on Website Sponsorship Recognition Page Supports HR Base Operations and Scholarship Fund	\$100	Daugherty, Brian O'Donnell, Ron Sidlovsky, John Warren, Bud
41 for FREEDOM Sponsor	1 Raffle Ticket at Each Monthly Base Meeting Name on Website Sponsorship Recognition Page Supports HR Base Operations and Scholarship Fund	\$75	Steenburgh, Chuck (2)
NAUTILUS Era Sponsor	Name on Website Sponsorship Recognition Page Supports HR Base Operations and Scholarship Fund	\$50	
DIESEL BOATS FOREVER Sponsor	Name on Website Sponsorship Recognition Page Supports HR Base Operations and Scholarship Fund	\$25	Cosgrove, David Demnicki, Joe



Norfolk St Patricks Day Parade



Passing of a Submarine Force Legendary Leader

From: "Cox, Samuel J SES USN NHC WASHINGTON DC (USA)" <samuel.j.cox4.civ@us.navy.mil>

Date: Monday, February 12, 2024 at 09:28

To: "Cox, Samuel J SES USN NHC WASHINGTON DC (USA)" <samuel.j.cox4.civ@us.navy.mil>, "samuel.cox@navy.mil" <samuel.cox@navy.mil>

Cc: Sam Cox <sjcox80@verizon.net>

Subject: Passing of ADM Bruce DeMars, USN, (Ret.)

Fellow Flag Officers,

It is with deep regret I inform you of the passing of Admiral Bruce DeMars, U.S. Navy, Retired, on 3 February 2024 at age 88. ADM DeMars entered the U.S. Naval Academy in June 1953 and served as a Submarine Warfare Officer until his retirement in October 1996 as the third Director, Naval Reactors/Naval Nuclear Propulsion. His commands included USS CAVALLA (SSN-684,) Submarine Development Squadron TWELVE, and Naval Base Guam/U.S. Naval Forces Marianas. ADM DeMars' career had profound effect on bringing about the end of the Cold War and fielding numerous submarine and power-plant technological advances, to include improved LOS ANGELES, SEAWOLF and VIRGINIA-class submarines, while maintaining an extraordinary safety record. In addition, he was an avid practitioner of the use of history.

Bruce DeMars entered the U.S. Naval Academy on 29 June 1953, right as the Korean War was ending. His first midshipmen cruise was on the battleship USS MISSOURI (BB-63) as a powder-hoist operator in Turret No. 2. His second cruise was on the destroyer USS TURNER (DD-834,) both cruises to European waters. According to the Lucky Bag (yearbook) he was noted for his "lively enthusiasm" and that his "favorite subjects lay in the limited liberal arts category offered by the academy including history and literature. 'Red's' ability to take things in stride and his casual humor earned him a great many friends." He graduated on 7 June 1957 with a Bachelor of Science in Naval Science, approximately 150th in the Class, and was commissioned an ensign.

In June 1957, Ensign DeMars reported to Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, California for training. In September 1957, he was assigned to the attack transport USS TELFAIR (APA-210,) based in San Diego, serving as First Division Officer. As TELFAIR was in the process of being decommissioned, three months later he was reassigned to attack transport USS OKANOGAN (APA-220) based in Long Beach, and deploying to Korea in 1958 for amphibious exercises with embarked South Korean Marines, while he served as Assistant Combat Information Center Officer. He applied and was selected for submarine service, reporting to the Naval Submarine School, New London, Connecticut in May 1958. He was promoted to lieutenant (junior grade) in December 1958.

In January 1959, Lieutenant (junior grade) DeMars was assigned to diesel-electric submarine USS CAPITAIN (SS-336) in San Diego, serving variously as Supply Officer, Communications Officer, Gunnery Officer, Electrical Material Officer, and First Lieutenant, while deploying to the Western Pacific. He applied for the Navy Nuclear Power Program and interviewed with then-Vice Admiral Hyman Rickover. He was thrown out of VADM Rickover's office twice (once with a four month gap) before being selected for the program.

In March 1960, LTJG DeMars attended Naval Nuclear Power School, Mare Island Vallejo, California, finishing in the middle of a 12-officer class. In September 1960, he continued training at the Atomic Energy Commission, Naval Reactor Operations Office, Schenectady, New York. In April 1961, LTJG DeMars flew to Holy Loch, Scotland as part of the Blue Crew for USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (SSBN-598,) the first U.S. Navy nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, which was completing her second Polaris missile deterrent patrol. He completed three deterrent patrols on GEORGE WASHINGTON, which due to the range of the Polaris required operations in the northern Norwegian Sea. He was promoted to lieutenant in April 1961 and served variously as Main Propulsion Assistant, Damage Control Assistant, M Division Officer and Diving Officer, qualifying for submarine command.

In September 1962, Lieutenant DeMars reported to Naval Nuclear Power School Mare Island, this time as an Instructor for both officer and enlisted courses. In October 1964, LT DeMars reported to San Diego-based Skipjack-class nuclear fast attack submarine USS SNOOK (SSN-592,) then under the command of Commander (and future Chief of Naval Operations) James Watkins. LT DeMars served as Main Propulsion Assistant, Reactor Control Officer, Weapons Officer, Operations Officer and Navigator on two deployments to the Western Pacific, including operations in the vicinity of Vietnam and North Korea, for which SNOOK was awarded a Navy Unit Commendation. He was promoted to lieutenant commander in March 1966.



In December 1966, Lieutenant Commander DeMars reported to the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Virginia as a student. In June 1967 he assumed duty as Executive Officer for recently commissioned (March 1967) nuclear fast attack submarine USS STURGEON (SSN-637,) the lead unit of her class, assigned to Submarine Development Group TWO (later Submarine Development Squadron TWELVE) at Groton, Connecticut. STURGEON made two special operations deployments to the Barents Sea, earning two Meritorious Unit Commendations, while LCDR DeMars earned a Navy Achievement Medal and then a Navy Commendation Medal during this tour. STURGEON also participated in the search for lost submarine USS SCORPION (SSN-589) in May 1968 and visited the U.S. Naval Academy in March 1969.

In July 1969, LCDR DeMars reported to the Naval Submarine School Groton as Director of Executive Officer and Division Officer Training Department. He was promoted to commander in July 1970. In June 1971, he commenced Pre-Commissioning Commanding Officer (PCO) training at the Atomic Energy Commission, Director of Naval Reactors, followed by additional training with the Staff of Commander Submarine Force U.S. Atlantic Fleet in Norfolk, Virginia.

In December 1971, Commander DeMars assumed duty as PCO of Sturgeon-class fast attack submarine USS CAVALLA (SSN-684) finishing construction at Groton, Connecticut. He assumed command of CAVALLA upon commissioning on 9 February 1973, under Submarine Squadron TEN (SUBRON 10) at Groton, deploying to the Barents Sea and earning a Meritorious Unit Commendation. In January 1975, he reported to the staff of SUBRON 10 as Deputy Commander for Training. Shortly thereafter, in July 1975 he was re-assigned to Commander-in-Chief U.S. Atlantic Fleet as Senior Member of the Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board, a position he held for three years. He was promoted to captain on 1 July 1976.

In June 1978, Captain DeMars assumed command of Submarine Development Squadron TWELVE at Groton (redesignated from SUBDEVGRU 2 in May 1977,) leading the development of tactics and testing them in real-world operations against the Soviet Navy. In May 1979, he was short-toured in command and assigned to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations as Deputy Director, Attack Submarine Division (OP-22B.)

In August 1981, CAPT DeMars was designated a rear admiral for duty in a billet commensurate with that rank and assigned as the Commander Naval Base Guam, with additional duty as Commander Naval Forces Marianas and Commander-in-Chief U.S. Pacific Command Representative to Guam and the Trust Territory of Pacific Islands. This was his first (and only) tour outside the submarine community since becoming a submarine officer. He was promoted to rear admiral on 1 October 1982.

In July 1983, RADM DeMars returned to the Pentagon on the Office of the CNO as Assistant Deputy CNO, Submarine Warfare (OP-02B.) In November 1985, he became the Assistant Chief of Naval Operations for Undersea Warfare (OP-02) and was promoted to vice admiral the next month. At the time, OP-02 was one of the three "Barons" (Air, Surface and Sub-Surface) with far more power to control budgets within their own respective communities, which had advantages in efficiency and disadvantages in inter-operability.

In October 1988, VADM DeMars was designated an Admiral (four stars) for service in a billet commensurate with that rank, relieving Admiral Kinnaird McKee as only the third Director of Naval Reactors/Director of Naval Nuclear Propulsion following the long-tenure of Admiral Hyman Rickover (1949-1982,) and at that point limited by statute to an eight-year term. He was promoted to full admiral on 1 November 1988. In this position, he had responsibility for all aspects of naval nuclear propulsion, which at the time included 176 reactor plants (more than all commercial nuclear power plants in the U.S.) on over 150 ships and submarines, eight land-based research and training reactors, eight nuclear qualified shipyards, two Department of Energy laboratories and an extensive commercial supplier base. With the sudden end of the Cold War with the Soviet Union and political desire for a "Peace Dividend" he was then required to direct the nuclear enterprise to a Post-Cold War footing, involving the disposal of some 50 nuclear-powered ships and submarines, and inactivation of two naval nuclear shipyards and seven land-based reactor sites. Despite this he guided the SEAWOLF Submarine Development Program (truncated at three units mostly due to cost and lack of political support) and initiating the development of the propulsion plant for the following generation of submarines (VIRGINIA-class.)

ADM DeMars retired from active duty on 1 October 1996, whereupon both houses of the U.S. Congress passed resolutions honoring his 44-years of service.

Admiral DeMars' awards include the Navy Distinguished Service Medal (two awards,) Legion of Merit (four awards,) Meritorious Service Medal (two awards,) Navy Commendation Medal (two awards,) Navy Achievement Medal, Navy Unit Commendation, Meritorious Unit Commendation (three awards,) Battle Efficiency Ribbon, Navy Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal (three awards,) Vietnam Service Medal (two campaign stars,) and Navy Overseas Service Ribbon.



Following retirement from active duty, ADM DeMars worked as a partner in RSD, LLC., and served on the boards of Exelon Corporation, McDermott International Inc., and OceanWorks International Inc. He was a member of the Corporation of the Draper Laboratory and served as an advisor to industry and government. He also was a supporter of the Central Union Mission in Washington DC and funded the book "Making Faces," designed to aid families with children born with cleft palates. He served as Chairman of the Naval Submarine League and Chairman of the U.S. Naval Academy Class of '57 Washington DC Chapter, was a member of the USNA Distinguished Graduate Award Selection Committee, Co-Chair of the Class of '57 Legacy Gift Campaign, a member of the USNA Stadium Committee, the Buchanan Society and President's Circle. He was also awarded the 2011 Ellis Island Medal of Honor, and was a member of the Military Order of the Carabao.

ADM DeMars was named a U.S. Naval Academy Distinguished Graduate in 2009, and served as the Chairman of the Naval Historical Foundation from 2008 to 2015. He was a dedicated proponent of teaching naval history, leading his Class of '57 in endowing a new Distinguished Chair in Naval Heritage at USNA and providing major financial support to the U.S. Naval Academy Museum. As Chairman of the Naval Historical Foundation he raised funds in support of the National Museum of the U.S. Navy and for the Cold War Gallery on the Washington Navy Yard, leading by example in donating over \$100,000 of his own money. In 2012, the National Maritime History Society honored him with their Distinguished Service Award.

"I respectfully decline to carry out your order" would not typically be the path to four-star rank, but that is what then-VADM DeMars did when he resigned as President of the FY88 Active Duty Line Captain Selection Board, after Secretary of the Navy John Lehman ordered him to re-convene the board after submarine officers did slightly disproportionately well on the board, an order DeMars determined to be illegal. (In the end, the board was not reconvened.) In fact in some ways, DeMars' path to flag was not typical; no post-graduate school, no aide/executive assistant job, no tours outside the submarine community, inauspicious first tour on troop transports, middle-of-the road at nuke power school, and two attempts to get past Admiral Rickover into the program. The dust-up with Secretary Lehman wasn't even the first time he confronted higher authority, when as Assistant Director of Attack Submarines in OPNAV (OP-22B) he persisted against CNO Hayward's direction that the improved LOS ANGELES SSN (688i) was "not the right answer" (turned out it was) and was sent to Guam (actually a great flag tour,) but came back as a "Baron."

ADM DeMars was one of the most profoundly influential and effective leaders in the submarine community since World War II. He was described as a "leader in the Cold War battle for undersea supremacy" greatly "instrumental in advancing submarine technology by establishing fully integrated series of design and technology advances - improvements manifested in LOS ANGELES and SEAWOLF-class and instrumental in VIRGINIA-class design, development and delivery which ushered in major stealth and sensor advances far exceeding the technology of all other submarines in the world." He served in ballistic missile and attack submarines during the height of the Cold War with the Soviet Union, when the only difference between peace and war in the undersea environment was pulling the trigger. It was a time of potentially dangerous "close encounters" between our attack submarines and Soviet submarines, which the Soviets knew was happening through their spy network, but could almost never tactically counter or even counter-detect with their submarines. ADM DeMars also served in multiple instructor and tactical development assignments to pass on critical knowledge. Although nothing strikes fear in the hearts of CO's like a Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board, that then-CAPT DeMars led for three years, the exacting no-margin-for-error standards are a significant reason why the U.S. has lost no submarines since 1968 (and the Soviets/Russians have lost about ten.) I would be remiss in not noting that, despite the technical emphasis of his profession, he was also a profound believer in the importance of the study of history. He certainly made history in winning the Cold War, and the possibly even more difficult (and arguably premature) "Peace Dividend" downsizing afterwards. His legacy permeates the submarine force today, and almost certainly far into the future. And as with any flag officer, it would not have been possible without the willingness of his family to endure the necessary sacrifice, for which our nation should be grateful.

Rest in Peace Admiral DeMars

Samuel J. Cox (SES)

RADM, USN (Ret)

Director of Naval History

Curator for the Navy

Director Naval History and Heritage Command

